

**Statewide Municipal Solid Waste Regionalization Plan****FY2003 Request:****\$150,000****Reference No:****35800****AP/AL:** Appropriation**Project Type:** Planning**Category:** Health/Safety**Location:** Statewide**Contact:** Janice Adair**Election District:** Statewide**Contact Phone:** (907)269-7644**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2002 - 06/30/2007**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

This contractual effort would build upon the 1999 study by the Alaska chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America to look specifically at areas where regional municipal solid waste landfills could be constructed, or an existing landfill expanded to serve multiple communities. Regional landfills would have the economy of scale to support required maintenance and operation costs.

**Funding:**

	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	Total
Gen Fund	\$150,000						\$150,000
Total:	\$150,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$150,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased Project	<input type="checkbox"/> On-Going Project
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill

**Operating & Maintenance Costs:**

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Total Operating Impact:	0	0
One-Time Startup Costs:	0	
Additional Estimated Annual O&M:	0	0

**Prior Funding History / Additional Information:**

No prior funding.

Building on the regionalization study completed by the Alaska chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America, the State Solid Waste Management Plan will provide the structure needed for more cost effective solid waste management in Alaska.

**Background:** Alaska has 243 municipal landfills of which 174 serve very small communities. Only 21% of these very small landfills are permitted; most of the rest are essentially open dumps. By comparison, the State of Washington with many times the population and solid waste volume of Alaska has only 21 municipal landfills. The disparity, of course, results from the relative ease with which wastes can be collected and transported to regional disposal facilities in Washington. However, some regional options are possible in Alaska, and regional strategies can reduce costs even in remote locations.

The large number of small landfills in Alaska creates its own set of challenges. Small landfills cannot take advantage of economies of scale to yield operating efficiencies. This contributes to substandard operating practices. Capital costs associated with developing, upgrading and properly closing such a large number of landfills are staggering.

The current practice of developing a disposal site to serve nearly every community compels development of disposal sites in environments poorly suited to landfills. In wet environments, moisture in the form of rain, snowmelt, and run-on water passes through the wastes and can contaminate adjacent surface waters, groundwater, and land.

There are alternatives that could be employed in areas ill-suited to landfills. Low-tech incineration is one option, but involves capital costs as well as substantial operating cost and care. Incinerator ash still needs to be disposed of. Waste staging and transshipment is another option, but long-term storage of wastes is a challenge, as is waste transport. Balers can be used to compress wastes, but it is a method of handling, and not disposing of, wastes. Bales must still be landfilled or transported to a disposal facility. None of these options jumps out as the easy solution to all of Alaska's solid waste management problems. On the other hand, each has some potential to improve waste management.

This plan will identify preferred solid waste management options for the regions of the state. It will focus on potential regional waste management systems, but will include options that can be implemented locally where regional systems are not feasible. It will provide tools to help communities comply with the planning statute and better address local concerns. It will also provide a blueprint to state and federal agencies that fund landfill construction.

The plan will be developed by a private contractor with agency direction and community input. In those areas where preliminary steps have been taken to improve solid waste management, the plan will incorporate and build on what has already been accomplished.

The plan will:

- Identify areas where solid wastes could be managed regionally;
- Identify cost-effective solid waste management strategies for each region of the state;
- Provide a conceptual design for solid waste management in each region;
- Estimate capital and operating costs associated with preferred management options;
- Estimate operating and capital cost differentials between existing and preferred solid waste management systems;
- Identify and summarize current efforts to improve solid waste management.

**Project Costs:** The 150.0 funding requested for this project will pay for the contractual costs to develop the plan outlined above, including necessary public consultation.